

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF FIRE WARDENS OF THE LONSDALE  
FIRE DISTRICT, INC. , 224 Front Street, Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865**

**HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015 at the Lincoln Housing Authority,  
10 Franklin Street, Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865**

**PRESENT: Mr. Joseph Tashash, Mr. Michael Babbitt, Mr. Bradford  
Booth and Mr. Kevin Farrell**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.,  
Wednesday, June 17, 2015.**

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2015 MEETING:**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

**The current Accident and Sickness Insurance payment is \$28,000.  
The District will call the insurer to suspend this insurance while the  
firefighters remain laid-off.**

**The pension payment of approximately \$42,000 remains outstanding.**

**The Town will send a bill for \$250 for the recertification of EMT licenses for the firefighters.**

**As of Wednesday, June 17, 2015 the district had \$11,960.06 in its checking account, \$858.76 in its money market account and \$4.13 in its savings account. Payment from Lincoln Manor of approximately \$12,000 is forthcoming. The Town's monthly payment of approximately \$1000 for housing of the rescue in the firehouse is continuing.**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to table approval of the monthly bills until next month's meeting. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Minutes from the June 6, 2015 Emergency Meeting are posted on the Secretary of State's website.**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2015 Emergency Meeting. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**The Board is still sorting through past financial records to determine how the district arrived at its current financial situation. While this review is ongoing there is no definitive timetable for bringing the firefighters back to work.**

**The Board maintains contact with the banks regarding possible borrowing under a tax anticipation note now that a financial plan is in the process of being formalized.**

**The Treasurer's annual stipend of \$6000 was not paid in 2014 to the former Treasurer.**

**Mr. Michael Babbitt explained that based on his review of available records to date the District received \$322.69 more than it spent in the time frame of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Annual pension payments to the Town vary because they are based on changing actuarial information.**

**Residents inquired as to what steps are being taken to maintain the equipment during the lay-off. The Board is in discussions with the firefighters to prepare a list of what needs to be done at what times. The Saylesville Fire District may be able to perform some of the maintenance.**

**Residents suggested that steps towards making it easier for taxpayers to pay their taxes should be taken. The District recently began accepting payment of taxes online. A change to quarterly tax payments may increase collections.**

**There is no public safety lapse due to the lay-offs that occurred on June 6, 2015. Services are being provided by the Saylesville Fire District and through existing mutual aid agreements.**

**The District's Clerk and all Wardens are foregoing all stipends.**

**A credit in the Town's healthcare account will cover the firefighter's health insurance premium payments for the next month.**

## **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

**No formal Fire Chief's Report was prepared for this meeting.**

**The Board will obtain a report of all runs made in the District by the Saylesville Fire District. From June 6, 2015 to today's date Saylesville has made between 26-31 runs in the District according to Lieutenant Adam Pontbriant. Saylesville Fire District will conduct residential inspections. The State Fire Marshall may conduct all commercial inspections.**

## **WARDEN'S REPORT**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash stated that there is no formal Warden's report and there is no additional information to report beyond what was previously discussed.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Mr. Tashash stated that there is no update regarding the information provided to the IRS regarding the 2011 tax year.**

**The Attorney General found the District in violation of the Open Meetings Act and Access to Public Records Act in its May 21, 2015 letter regarding requests made under each Act by Sharon Higgins. Attorney Dennis Baluch will provide all information to Ms. Higgins in accordance with the Attorney General's ruling. Ms. Higgins's attorney indicated that no lawsuit will be filed if all information regarding Deputy Chief Thomas Ryan's vehicle registration is provided.**

**The District engaged the services of a payroll service starting in 2013. Direct deposit is now provided to the firefighters. The payroll service provides efficiencies in the filing of all required documents and**

**payment of all taxes. The cost for these services ranges from \$23-\$49 per weekly pay period.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to establish a subcommittee to engage in negotiations with the Saylesville Fire District regarding services provided to this District and the fees for providing said services and to appoint Mr. Michael Babbitt and Mr. Kevin Farrell as the two (2) members of the subcommittee. Mr. Bradford Booth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to establish a subcommittee to ensure the District's compliance with all provisions of the Open Meetings Act and Access to Public Records Act and to appoint himself and Mr. Bradford Booth as the two (2) members of the subcommittee. Mr. Kevin Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The District's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Housing Authority, 10 Franklin Street.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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**TIM GRIFFIN, DISTRICT CLERK   BRADFORD BOOTH, SECRETARY**